

**CITY OF WOODSTOCK
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

September 8th, 2015
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Mike McCleary on Tuesday, September 8th, 2015 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mike McCleary, Steve Erwin, Bruce Farris, Pete Riis

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Recreation Director Dave Zinnen, Public Works Director Jeff Van Landuyt, Parks and Facility Superintendent Ernie Nelson, City Manager Roscoe Stelford

OTHERS PRESENT: Deputy City Clerk Amy Weber

C. FLOOR DISCUSSION:

1. Public comments

M. McCleary asked for comments, no comments

2. Commission Member comments for any item not on the agenda

The Woodstock High School Engineering and Design Studies was attended by 10 students, one from Woodstock North, one from Transportation, and one from Parks and Recreation. They are working on a bicycle path from Crystal Lake to Woodstock. A second group is working on Route 47, widening it to 4 lanes from Huntley to Woodstock. There is a public meeting in two weeks to address concerns. The students are eager to work on one-year long projects vs. semester-long projects. Halfway segments William C. Donato Conservation area, project completed. SE last meeting idea north and merridan metioned to steve Thompson liked idea a lot . MM students projects recommendations from Andrew from transportation, they want to do their own project. SE asked next Thursday 115 be in school office.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Bruce Farris, second by Steve Erwin to accept the April 14, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Chairman Mike McCleary, Steve Erwin, Nic Kearfott. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried. Minutes from July 2015 meeting will be approved at October meeting.

E. TRANSMITTALS: (No discussion or action requested)

1. Recreation Department Report for August 2015

D. Zinnen reported that the summer shutdown projects at the rec center have been completed. They took out old benches, sauna and flooring and cleaned everything up. They replaced the benches with cedar benches, costing roughly \$2,000. The benches had not been updated since 2003. M. McCleary asked if the heating system had remained the same, and D. Zinnen

indicated that it had, though it has been replaced as needed. The Rec Center has been through 3-4 heating systems that have been damaged by water. D. Zinnen distributed City Scene to commission members, saying he thought the publication turned out well. S. Erwin said he would distribute it at school.

M. McCleary asked for a final attendance from Labor Day weekend. D. Zinnen said they hoped to have final numbers by this weekend. He states, roughly speaking, there were 35,000 - 40,000 attendees, more than last year, which was over 30,000, but less than a good year, which is around 50,000. D. Zinnen noted that it didn't get warm until after the Barn Dance, mid-July. When it finally dried out the kids were already back in school. He concluded that they really only had one good month of swimming weather.

M. McCleary noted that the boilers are a perennial problem. He asked if rebuilding them would solve the issue. Jeff Van Landuyt described to the commission what was going on with the Emricson Park Pool boilers and noted that it is a tough call—there is no one reason why the big boiler is failing. He added that it is only the biggest boiler having issues. He added that this summer it was the heat exchanger that went out and it cost about \$10,000 to fix because they had to take the boiler apart to get to the heat exchanger. They also made some changes to the draft on the boiler as well. He stated that there won't be a need for another new heat exchanger next year. D. Zinnen commented that staff did visit Huntley's pool to see how their set up compares, however Huntley has only one pool shell, rather than three like Woodstock.

M. McCleary asked if there were any other questions for D. Zinnen. No comments.

2. Parks Division Report for August 2015

E. Nelson states that after a busy summer, there's been a big reduction in the number of fields that have to be prepped. They've also taken on some additional project work, renovating the bump outs and continuing to work on the labyrinth. M. McCleary asked about the status with the city council. Garrett Anderson, Woodstock Economic Development Director, noted that the smoking ban has not been discussed, though the online survey is closed. He added that 25 percent of those who responded were smokers, and 70 percent were in favor of banning smoking in the square, in addition, 60-65 percent were in favor of banning smoking on the Square and side streets, and finally there was about a 50/50 percent split on Woodstock being a smoke free community. City Manager Roscoe Stelford added that a total of 460 people responded to the survey. M. McCleary asked if people could take the survey multiple times. R. Stelford replied that you could only take it once per computer. So, you could take it 10 times, but only if you did it on 10 different computers.

M. McCleary asked if there were any other comments about the park tour. The commission discussed the possibility of purchasing field property owned by Centegra, adjacent to Centegra Woodstock. M. McCleary added that the commission could address that when they do their CIP projects. M. McCleary asked to put this discussion on the agenda for October. M. McCleary asked if there were any further comments on the tour. No comments.

F. OLD BUSINESS:

1. None

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of New User Group Request by Next Level Baseball Program
M. McCleary stated that this group is looking for practice use only for the fall of 2015. D. Zinnen noted that there's been plenty of field space available. His concern is about Woodstock Little League Avalance. Next season there may not enough game space. D. Zinnen described how he drove through the parks this summer and there were a lot of empty fields, but mostly the smaller fields. P. Riis asked E. Nelson about the fields being taken out of circulation and the fields being reseeded. E. Nelson noted they generally rest three fields at a time to irrigate, but they only rest out the soccer fields. He added that they reseeded and rested everything this spring, along with rebuilding the pitchers' mounds and home plates. M. McCleary asked if teams are practicing now. E. Nelson replied, yes. D. Zinnen recommended not recognizing them and having them on an 'as needed' basis. He added that they are from a sports city and have a training facility in Woodstock. P. Riis noted that in the April minutes, we did approve them as a user group. He asked if they would be at a lower priority. D. Zinnen noted that these groups have a tendency to come and go, and that's why we've established this policy--they get mad at Little League and go out and form their own league. He feels we want to give priority to established teams. M. McCleary suggested taking no action now. D. Zinnen suggested we tell them we will go through the schedule to see if there is space available, but we won't put them as a priority. The Commission agreed.
2. Discussion of Park Master Plan 2005
P. Riis noted that the Plan is online. He notes the Park Master Plan has a restriction on how often you can revise them. D. Zinnen believes they have everything covered. He noted that the park policy is going to be somewhat fluid, but that the Master Plan is a long-term document. He suggested revisiting the Plan and start looking down the road for when the economy hopefully rebounds and they can start doing some projects. M. McCleary discussed ways to approach reviewing the Plan. P. Riis asked if the 10-year plan ties into the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). D. Zinnen responded, yes. P. Riis noted that there are some big projects for which we have to get user group input. P. Riis also noted that there is not a real ranking of projects in here. M. McCleary added that dredging the pond has been in since the 1990's. M. McCleary asked the Commission what they wanted to address first. Commission agreed to look at the Park Master Plan and to address chapters 1 and 2, up to page 37, for the October Commission meeting. D. Zinnen noted that chapter 1 is background stuff and suggested doing it next month and then do user groups in November.

H. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Tentative agenda items identified by Administration
 - a.
 - b.
2. Requested by Commission: Any member may suggest an item to be considered by the Commission at a future meeting, but must be approved by a majority of the Commission to be included as a future agenda item.
 - a. Park Master Plan Chapters 1 and 2.
 - b. Belcher property update and appraisal.
 - c. Bicycle trail project (Pete Riis).

I. ADJOURN:

Steve Erwin made a motion to adjourn, Bruce Farris seconding. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm to a Regular Meeting October 13, 2015 @ 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Weber – Deputy City Clerk